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SEG news release

Society of Exploration Geophysicists

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David L. Yowell or Sally Shank (918) 493-3516

MONTHLY SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(Month of September, 1985)

According to the Society of Exploration Geophysicists' latest report, the number of seismic land crews and marine vessels searching for oil and gas in the U.S. and U.S. waters during September decreased by eighteen crews over August. The land crew total decreased by eighteen, and the marine vessel total remained the same at forty-nine. An interesting note is that there are exactly half as many crews in operation now as there were five years ago when the Crew Count reached its all-time high of 744 crews in September of 1981.

The September total (372) represents a decrease of 5% from last month, a 29% decrease from September, 1984, a 26% decrease from September, 1983, a 30% decrease from September, 1982, a 50% decrease from September, 1981, a 34% decrease from September, 1980, and a decrease of 14% from the same month in 1979.

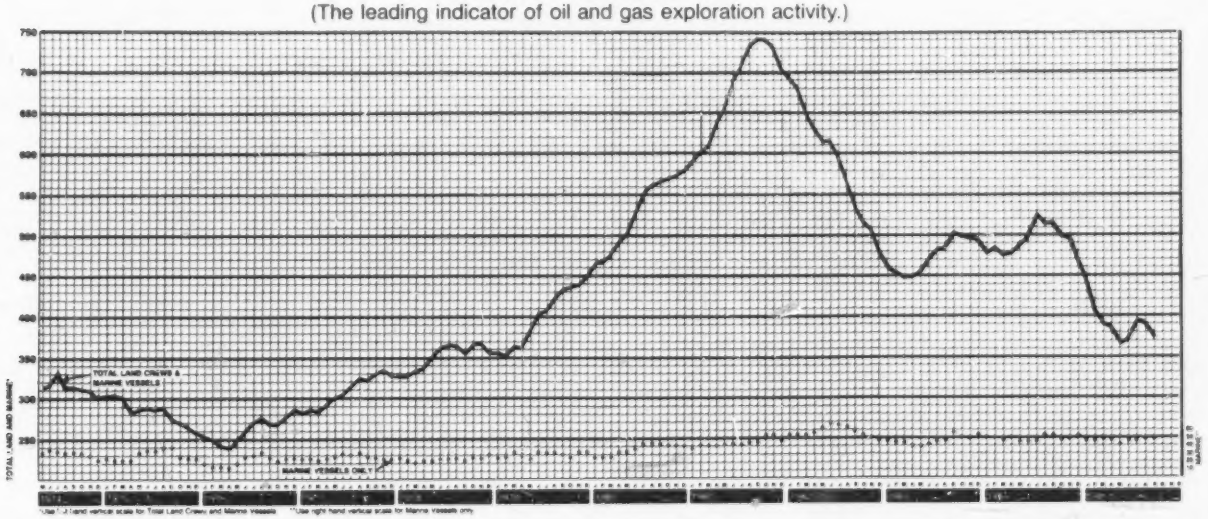
During September, eleven contractors were operating eighteen of the 290 land crews and six of the forty-three vessels on a speculative basis.

TOTAL LAND & MARINE CREWS:	This Month 372	Last Month 390	Sept'84 524	Sept'83 501	Sept'82 535	Sept'81 744	Sept'80 567	Sept'79 433

	LAND CREWS								MARINE VESSELS							
	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Sept 1984	Sept 1983	Sept 1982	Sept 1981	Sept 1980	Sept 1979	This Mo.	Last Mo.	Sept 1984	Sept 1983	Sept 1982	Sept 1981	Sept 1980	Sept 1979
68 Contr's:	290	308	435	405	434	654	484	364	43	42	44	49	50	40	36	24
9 Oil Co's:	33	33	37	39	42	43	39	39	6	6	7	7	8	6	7	4
1 Gov't.:	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Totals	323	341	472	444	476	697	523	403	49	49	52	57	59	47	44	30

SEISMIC CREW COUNT

(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



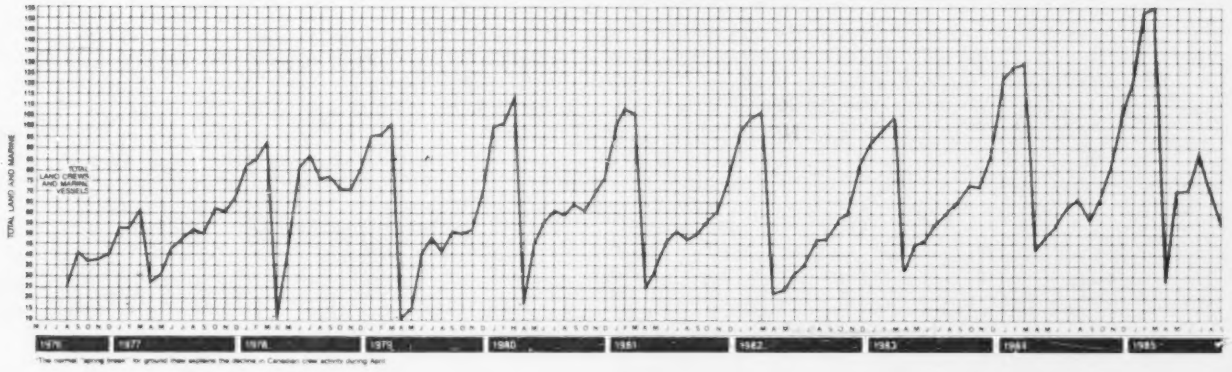
*Results of SEG's Seismic Crew Count of land and marine vessels engaged in exploration for oil and gas in the USA and USA waters, including Alaska, for the month indicated. These figures are compiled from data reported by oil companies operating company-owned seismic exploration crews and vessels and by contract seismic exploration companies. Special significance is attached to seismic crew activity since it is recognized as the leading indicator of all petroleum exploration activity.

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT

SEPTEMBER, 1985 (August figures in parentheses)

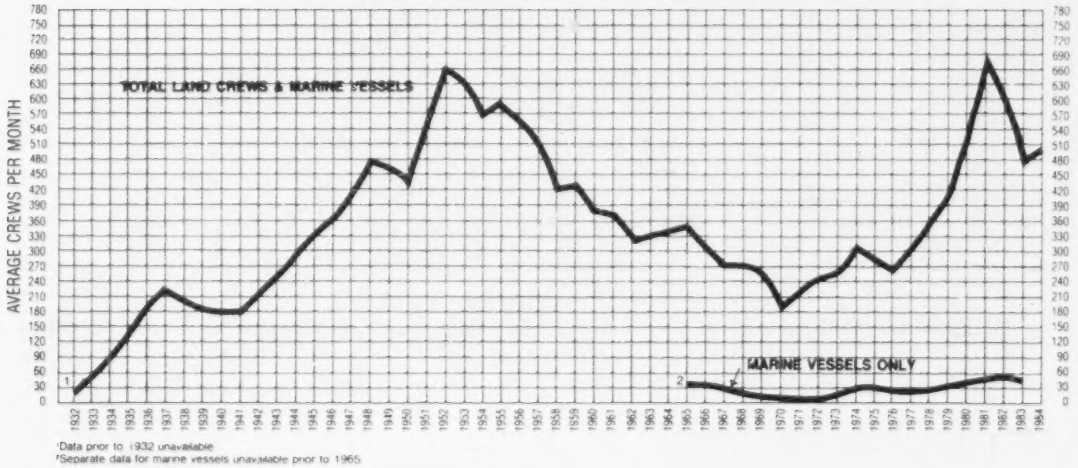
	Land Crews	Marine Vessels
25 Contractors:	46 (58)	5 (8)
2 Oil Companies:	3 (3)	0 (0)
Totals:	49 (61)	5 (8)

CANADIAN SEISMIC CREW COUNT
(The leading indicator of oil and gas exploration activity.)



SEG's monthly USA Seismic Crew survey was organized in 1974 at the request of the United States' Federal Energy Administration. The report is currently submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy. Both the U.S. and the international surveys are financed in part by a grant from the International Association of Geophysical Contractors.

HISTORY OF SEISMIC EXPLORATION IN THE UNITED STATES
(SEISMIC CREWS SEARCHING FOR OIL & GAS)



[1]Data prior to 1932 unavailable.
[2]Separate data for marine vessels unavailable prior to 1965.